

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 SAA-01 SES-02  
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 MCT-02 HA-05 GSA-02 IO-13 OES-09 SY-05  
ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /128 W  
-----087829 121313Z /44

O P 121126Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9627  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE  
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 12, 1978, 1300 HOURS LOCAL  
  
REF: BEIRUT 5272 (DTG 111042Z SEP 78)

1. SUMMARY: THERE WERE NO HEAVY CLASHES IN BEIRUT DURING  
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THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 11-12. ONLY 20 PERCENT OF THE  
WORKERS AT BEIRUT PORT REPORTED FOR WORK ON SEPTEMBER 11.  
SIX CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CALLED FOR A GENERAL  
STRIKE ON SEPTEMBER 13. CHRISTIAN MILITIAS SHELLED  
NABITIYAH. A UNIFIL PATROL ENTERED THE CHRISTIAN  
ENCLAVES. MAHMUD RIAD SAID THAT LEBANON HAD NOT ASKED  
THE ARAB LEAGUE TO RENEW THE MANDATE OF THE ADF.

THE CABINET HELD AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION WHICH WAS WIDELY SPECULATED TO HAVE DISCUSSED ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION, BUT THIS WAS DENIED BY VARIOUS MINISTERS. IMAM MUSA SADR WAS REPORTED MISSING. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY.

A. THERE WERE NO HEAVY CLASHES IN THE BEIRUT AREA THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 11-12. SPORADIC SNIPER FIRE AND A BRIEF ARTILLERY EXCHANGE IN THE AYN AR-RUMMANEH/ASH SHIYAH SUBURBS AROUND MIDNIGHT KEPT TENSION IN THE AREA HIGH, HOWEVER. AS OF 1300 HOURS SEPTEMBER 12, THE CITY IS GENERALLY QUIET.

B. ONLY 20 PERCENT OF THE WORKERS AT BEIRUT PORT REPORTED FOR WORK ON SEPTEMBER 11, ACCORDING TO IKE. THREE SHIPS BEING UNLOADED INSIDE THE PORT WERE FORCED TO LEAVE THE PORT WHEN SHELLS BEGAN FALLING NEAR THEM DURING FIGHTING OVER THE WEEKEND.

C. SIX CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CALLED FOR A ONE-DAY GENERAL STRIKE ON SEPTEMBER 13 TO PROTEST THE SYRIAN BOMBARDMENT OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND TO DEMAND AN IMMEDIATE SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM AREAS THAT "REJECT THEIR PRESENCE."  
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D. SOUTH LEBANON.

(1) ACCORDING TO ISRAEL RADIO, CHRISTIAN MILITIAS SHELLED NABATIYAH ON SEPTEMBER 11.

(2) ACCORDING TO AFP, A NORWEGIAN PATROL FROM UNIFIL MADE A RECONAISSANCE INTO A CHRISTIAN CONTROLLED ENCLAVE ON SEPTEMBER 11. THE PATROL, REPORTEDLY INSPECTED A PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATION POST. IT WAS THE FIRST UNIFIL UNIT TO ENTER THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES SINCE A NEW AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN THE MILITIAS AND UNIFIL ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 10, AFP SAID.

2. ADF RENEWAL.

A. BEIRUT DAILIES HEADLINED ON SEPTEMBER 12 A STATEMENT BY ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL MAHMUD RIAD SAYING THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT REQUESTED THE RENEWAL OF THE ADF MANDATE, DUE TO EXPIRE IN OCTOBER. ACCORDING TO IKE, RIAD TOLD MENA, "THE QUESTION OF RENEWING THE MANDATE OF THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCES

DEPENDS ON THE DESIRE OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, AND  
WE HAVE SO FAR RECEIVED NO REQUEST FROM THE LEBANESE  
GOVERNMENT TO RENEW IT."

B. IKE ALSO CITED AL-AHRAM AS SAYING THAT LEBANESE  
FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BUTROS HAD ASKED THAT THE  
MANDATE RENEWAL ISSUE BE KEPT OFF THE AGENDA OF THE  
UPCOMING ARAB LEAGUE MEETING. ON SEPTEMBER 11, HOWEVER,  
BUTROS TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE AL-AHRAM STORY WAS  
"NOTHING BUT NEWSPAPER TALK. IT'S NEWS TO ME."

C. ON SEPTEMBER 9 PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS  
SAID THAT THE ADF MANDATE WOULD CONTINUE  
TO BE EXTENDED UNTIL THE LEBANESE ARMY WAS CAPABLE  
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OF ASSUMING THE ADF'S SECURITY DUTIES. ON SEPTEMBER 10,  
HOWEVER, FORMER PRESIDENT CAMILLE CHAMOUN DECLARED THAT  
SUCH AN EXTENSION WOULD "NEVER HAPPEN." HOSS HAS  
REFUSED TO COMMENT FURTHER ON CHAMOUN'S STATEMENT  
(SEE SEPTEMBER 10 AND 11 SITREPS).

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D. IKE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ARAB LEAGUE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL SAYID NOFAL HAD STATED THAT TEN OF THE 21 ARAB LEAGUE MEMBER COUNTRIES HAD DECIDED TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING MEETING. NOFAL DID NOT LIST LEBANON AS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES THAT WOULD ATTEND THE MEETING, HOWEVER. BUTROS HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER THAT LEBANON WOULD ATTEND.

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### 3. NATIONAL ACCORD DEBATE IN CABINET.

A. AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE LEBANESE CABINET WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11. ACCORDING TO PRIME MINISTER HOSS THE CABINET DISCUSSED "GENERAL POLITICAL MATTERS WHICH ARE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE LEBANESE PEOPLE AT THIS STATE." IT WAS WIDELY SPECULATED THAT THE SESSION HAD DISCUSSED A POLITICAL FORMULA FOR A NEW LEBANON.

B. THE SAHAFIYA NEWS AGENCY REPORTED THAT FOUR SEPARATE PROJECTS, ALL BASED ON ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION, HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. TWO OF THESE PROJECTS HAD COME FROM INTERIOR MINISTER SALAH SALMAN AND INDUSTRY MINISTER MICHEL DOUMET, ACCORDING TO SAHAFIYA, BUT WHEN CONTACTED LATER IN THE DAY BOTH MEN DENIED THAT THEY HAD PROPOSED SUCH PLANS. SALMAN STATED THAT SUCH IDEAS "WERE NOT DISCUSSED AT THE CABINET MEETING THIS MORNING," ACCORDING TO IKE.

C. NEWSPAPERS ON SEPTEMBER 12 ALSO CARRIED COMMENTS BY VARIOUS LEBANESE LEADERS ON DECENTRALIZATION. A SAMPLE:

(1) PHALANGE LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SURE THAT ANY DECENTRALIZATION PLAN WOULD NOT "CONSECRATE SECTARIAN ENTITIES" IN THE COUNTRY. IN HIS REMARKS GEMAYEL WARNED OF THE "CONSPIRACY" TO SETTLE THE PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON.

(2) KAMAL SHATILA, LEADER OF THE PRO-SYRIAN UNION OF WORKING PEOPLE'S FORCES, URGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION NOT AFFECT THE POLITICAL, SECURITY, FINANCIAL, AND EDUCATIONAL FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. SHATILA SAID THAT A CENTRALIZED MILITARY FORCE PROVIDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WAS THE ONLY GUARANTEE OF LEBANON'S UNITY, ACCORDING TO IKE. A DECENTRALIZATION OF SECURITY, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD LEAD TO PARTITION, SHATILA CHARGED.

(3) IBRAHIM QULAYLAT, LEADER OF THE LEFTIST INDEPENDENT NASIRITE MOVEMENT (MURABITUN) WARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION WOULD LEAD TO PARTITION. IN A HIGHLY CENSORED ARTICLE, QULAYLAT SAID THAT THE PLAN WAS A "PLAN FOR PARTITION" WHICH HAD ORIGINATED WITH THE LEBANESE FRONT.

4. SHIA' LEADER MISSING.

IMAM MUSA SADR, ALONG WITH TWO MEMBERS OF THE HIGHER SHIA' COUNCIL, SHAYKH MUHAMMAD YAQUB AND JOURNALIST ABBAS BADR-AL-DIN, WERE REPORTED TO BE MISSING, ACCORDING TO VARIOUS DAILIES. AN OFFICIAL OF THE LIBYAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT SAID THAT SADR AND HIS COMPANIONS HAD LEFT TRIPOLI AUGUST 31 ON BOARD AN ALITALIA PLANE BOUND FOR ROME. ALITALIA WAS CHECKING ITS RECORDS ON SEPTEMBER 11 TO DETERMINE IF SADR HAD DISEMBARKED IN ROME OR CONTINUED ON TO ANOTHER DESTINATION.

DECONTROL SEPTEMBER 30, 1978.

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## Message Attributes

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